

## Frequently Asked Questions about Electronic Dealer Reporting

- **If a MA dealer has both a federal and state permit who should they report to?**

Initially these dealers must report to both NMFS and MA DMF. Dealers must show that the data they are reporting to both agencies for quota managed species is the same for three consecutive weeks. This is to ensure that critical data for quota managed species is being received. Once it has been determined that the information is being reported consistently to both systems, the dealer will no longer be required to report to MA DMF. *Note that all species purchased must be reported to the new electronic dealer reporting system, including ones managed by quota. Only quota managed species must be reporting to the IVR system.*

- **As a Federally permitted dealer, when do I start reporting electronically to meet the NMFS requirement?**

As of May 1, 2004, MA dealers who have federal permits are required to report electronically to meet the NMFS reporting requirement. More information on the electronic dealer reporting requirements can be found on the NMFS website at: [www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/doc/nero.html](http://www.nero.noaa.gov/ro/doc/nero.html) or you can contact the NMFS NE Regional Office in Gloucester at 978-281-9300.

- **Do I need to report if I hold a state permit only, or possess a federal permit that does not require participation in the electronic reporting program?**

MA DMF plans on following the new federal rule which would require all MA dealers who are primary buyers of any seafood product (i.e., finfish, lobsters, shellfish, etc.) which includes fishermen acting as their own dealer, selling any product directly from their vessel, to report electronically. MA DMF plans on maintaining the current Dial-a-Fish or IVR system while the new electronic reporting system is phased in, and hopes to implement this change over the next six to twelve months. More information will follow once the MA regulation is accepted.

- **What is a primary buyer?**

A primary buyer is a dealer that is purchasing any seafood product (i.e., finfish, lobsters, shellfish or species sold for bait purposes) directly from the fishermen. It is the first point of sale, and it includes fisherman who hold retail boat permits and are acting as their own distributor.

- **What is the MA DMF ID number and how does it differ from the MA DMF permit number?**

Any person wishing to sell his/her catch in MA must have a commercial permit with MA DMF to do so. The four-digit permit number was used many years ago to identify permits, and is often the last four digits of the fisherman's social security number. Because this number is often not unique, an ID numbering system was devised in 1990 to uniquely identify permits. This was particularly important for permits that were issued for limited entry fisheries. When a dealer identifies the fisherman they purchase their landings from in the new electronic dealer reporting system, this unique ID number is displayed. It is this number that dealers should obtain from fishermen when recording the fisherman's permit which is associated to the landings they are buying. This is especially important since some fishermen have multiple permits (which would probably have duplicate four-digit permit numbers, but unique MA DMF ID numbers). Each MA commercial fishing permit displays both the DMF ID number and the four-digit permit number. **Remember, it is the DMF ID number that is required for reporting.**

- **How can I be notified about new state regulations, public hearings, fishery closures, etc?**

If you have an email address, sign up to be included on our Marinefisheries listserv. You will receive information from the Division regarding fishery openings and closings, regulation changes, and public hearing notices. To join the list, send an email with nothing in the subject or body to: [join-marinefisheries@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:join-marinefisheries@listserv.state.ma.us). You can also find information on our website at [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries).